

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00488 220402Z

60

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /081 W

----- 089786

P R 220244Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5089

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0488

CINCPAC PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, YE

SUBJECT: YAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT'S VISIT PROMPTS
ROKG ACTIVITY

REF: (A) SANA 136, (B) SANA 148, (C) SANA 153

1. DURING CALL BY STATE DEPARTMENT KOREA OFFICE DIRECTOR
O'DONOHUE ON MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS KIM CHONG-TAE JANUARY 20 LATTER ALLUDED TO SUBJECT OF
ROK RELATIONS WITH YAR. IN RESPONSE POLCOUNS ACCOMPANYING
O'DONOHUE PASSED ON SUBSTANCE OF REFS A AND B. POL COUNS POINTED
OUT THAT TAKING INITIATIVE IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH YAR WOULD BRING SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL BENEFIT TO ROK.
KIM LIKE OTHER MOFA OFFICIALS WE HAVE SPOKEN TO, WAS CONCERNED
ABOUT ECONOMIC CONTRADICTION IN BUYING YAR ROCK SALT FOR MORE
THAN AUSTRALIAN ROCK SALT NOW COSTS ROK AND THEN PAYING SEVERAL
TIMES THE PURCHASE PRICE TO A SHIPPING COMPANY TO GET IT TO
KOREA. (ONE ROK OFFICIAL HAS POINTED OUT IT WOULD BE MORE ECONOM-
ICAL FOR ROK TO BUY THE SALT AND DUMP IT OFF THE PIER INTO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00488 220402Z

OCEAN IN YAR THAN TO PAY THE SHIPPING COSTS TO KOREA.) KIM SAID

ROKG WAS STUDYING ALTERNATE MEANS OF PROVIDING YAR WITH ECONOMIC BENEFITS ANALOGOUS TO THOSE WHICH WOULD BE DERIVED FROM SALE OF ROCK SALT TO ROK, BUT WITHOUT HEAVY ECONOMIC PENALTIES ROK WOULD PAY FOR SALT SHIPMENT.

2. KIM ALSO SAID NEW ROK AMBASSADOR HAS RECENTLY ARRIVED IN JIDDA AND WILL BE MAKING INITIAL CALLS IN QATAR AND KUWAIT IN NEAR FUTURE. UPON COMPLETION THESE CALLS KIM THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR AMBASSADOR TO GO TO SANA AT WHICH POINT HE MIGHT FURTHER EXPLORE QUESTION OF ROK-YAR RELATIONS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 20 MOFA MID EAST DIVISION DIRECTOR YI CHONG PIN SAID RECENT APPROACH BY YAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT ZIKRI (PHONETIC) TO ROK EMBASSY JIDDA PRO-POSING A ZIKRI VISIT TO SEOUL IN EARLY FEBRUARY HAD PROMPTED MOFA TO ASK ROK COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY (MCI) TO DECLARE ITSELF ON QUESTION OF PURCHASE OF 50,000 TONS OF YAR ROCK SALT ANNUALLY FOR NEXT THREE YEARS. YI SAID MCI MINISTER CHANG YE-CHUN IN HIS REPORT FOLLOWING INCONCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH YARG LAST YEAR HAD URGED ROKG ROCK SALT DEAL PARTIALLY ON BASIS OF ANTICIPATED ANNUAL MARKET FOR ROK GOODS IN YAR OF DOLS TEN MILLION IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED. EMBOFF QUESTIONED FIGURE AND YI SAID HE ALSO FELT IT WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC, BUT SINCE HE HAD NO BASIS FOR CHALLENGING IT, AND BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD INDICATED TO YI THAT MOFA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FUND ASSISTANCE TO YAR OUT OF ITS BUDGET, HE HAD INSTEAD HIT BALL INTO MCI COURT TO SEE IF MCI WAS PREPARED TO COME UP WITH FUNDING FOR SOME FORM OF ROK ASSISTANCE FOR YAR IN ORDER TO OPEN UP DIPLO-MATIC RELATIONS AND TRADE POSSIBILITIES. YI SAID ROKG OBJECTIVE WAS TO COME UP WITH DECISION ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO YAR BEFORE ZIKRI VISIT BECAUSE ZIKRI REPORTEDLY HAS SOME INFLUENCE WITH YARG.
ERICSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ROCK SALT, VISITS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL00488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760023-0848
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760134/aaaabdsa.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANA 136, 76 SANA 148, 76 SANA 153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT'S VISIT PROMPTS ROKG ACTIVITY
TAGS: PFOR, KS, YE, (ZIKRI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006